

Woolsington Parish Council

Chairperson of the Council: George Pattison
Clerk to the Council: Andrew Richardson

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Minutes of the meeting of Woolsington Parish Council held on Wednesday 8th January 2025

Present: Councillor G. Pattison (Chair)
Councillors J. Couchman, A. Hay, J. Littleton, L. Spencer, A. Thomas
and L. Wright.

In attendance: A. Richardson – Clerk

01. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs L. Kennedy, L. McGuinness, J. Robinson, S. Pattison, and J. Sabarre.

02. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 13th November 2024 were agreed as a true record.

03. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

No matters arising.

04. Correspondence

The Clerk advised that a grant application had been received from Newbiggin Hall Football Club to the value of £7,500, however he had requested further information and breakdown of how the funds would be used before it could be considered.

05. Playzone Project Update

Newcastle City Council advised the Parish Council of the Football Foundations proposed changes to design, from that of the original Playzone plans. In light of this change and the reluctance to consider Woolsington Parish Council's proposal to build a new Playzone alongside the existing MUGA, the Members of the Parish Council decided to withdraw their interest to financially support this scheme. Cllr Hay expressed his concern and disappointment at how this had been handled by the Football Foundation and Newcastle City Council, especially the lack of detail around how the scheme would work.

06. Woolsington Parish Area Biodiversity Plan

Cllr Littleton and Cllr Couchman provided a detailed progress report.

Latest budget statements are available with the clerk

Not a lot of activity since the last meeting with regard to the Ward Biodiversity projects.

Woolsington Ward: Looking to do maintenance work in Bluebell Woods, which is situated in the Woolsington Village (this is adopted land) i.e. cutting down 4 damage trees and reinstate footpath with fresh chippings, waiting for a quote

from Green Eagle trees, Airport contractors (team who planted Milton Beattie's Tree).

Callerton Ward: looking at doing more planting in the village, awaiting the Callerton Residents Association to present proposals

Bedeburn Ward: Small flowerbed planned by bus stop on Bedeburn Road, residents have committed to maintain and water, however just waiting for NCC Engineers to complete cable checks.

Newbiggin Hall Ward: Local gardener Arthur Robson doing great work on the Sovereign Lodge Bed, checking progress on a monthly basis.

Schools: Meetings have been held with all 4 schools. Exciting projects for outdoor learning planned. Waiting for detailed proposals and costings.

All have committed to submit these by 31st March.

Other Projects: With regard to special projects, an update on the Parish Ponds Project Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) complete and to be used by the landowners as a plan for habitat & site maintenance throughout seasons.

Landowners are still working on the final stages of the Upper Callerton application.

Although Ponds area out of scope for housing, once development approved - Ponds will form an integral part of the landowner's maintenance and improvement plans, Landowner will use LEMP as the basis for this.

There have been site problems with quadbikes, following advice from police.

The Chair and David Abercrombie had discussions on an event day about solutions, further meeting on site to be held.

The Chair, Cllr Littleton and police for final agreement on:

Wildlife cameras to be installed on Monday (locations not for the minutes)

Gating (locked large gate and kissing gate) and landscape fencing (with hawthorn bushes) on the entrance to the main pond.

Kissing gate at the entrance to the A696 parking bay (concerns over H&S, prevent children and animals/pets getting onto the dual carriageway)

Received an estimate from Green Eagle trees for gating & fencing, £4,000 to be ringfenced from Woolsington & Bankfoot CIL for this purpose.

Rights of Way officer and BRAG (Equestrian Body) have been consulted and are supportive, the area is not a public right of way so no planning application or approvals required.

Next step 2 x Information Boards (to be designed by WPC and landowner)

Immense interest in this project, 100s of Facebook followers from local area

WPC plan to get community involved in this project, i.e. have a say, organise events, litter picking, & promotions, Also, major employer with strong ties to the area and site, has expressed to help and get involved.

Update on Abbotswood, meeting due with Newcastle International Airport about planning the next annual stage of habitat improvements

Likely to include more wildflower planting, spring bulbs, animal homes. native trees and possibly more furniture. Site maintenance, subject to discussions, it is planned £3,000 to be ringfenced from Woolsington & Bankfoot CIL for this purpose

07. Milton Beattie Memorial Event

Cllr Littleton advised of the Milton Beattie Memorial tree and plaque event planned for the 6th August, time to be confirmed. All Members are invited and a perfect opportunity to join Airport officers and walk around the site to see the Parish Council achievements.

08. Newbiggin Hall Defibrillator Project

Cllr G Pattison provided an update, one of the Defibrillators has been installed outside St Wilfrid’s Church, and thanked Cllr Littleton for his assistance. Newbiggin Hall doctor’s surgery has declined an offer to have one, and the pharmacy had also declined. Ideas on locations where further defibrillators could be positioned were St Marks Church, Redburn Industrial Estate, Cllr Hay advised an accountancy firm could be approached to house one, Bedeburn Road and also the Jingling Gate were suggested.

09. Ward Councillor’s Update

Cllr Hay advised it had been a busy couple of months following political unrest, however had now settled. Update provided on the Boundary Commission Review, and following Cabinet approval, the parks currently managed by Urban Green will return to Newcastle City Council control in February/March.

10. CIL Discussion

The clerk provided a balance on the updated funding figures and welcomed suggestions and ideas on projects that are in the pipeline.

Cllr Wright advised that no update at present in the Callerton Ward.

Cllr G Pattison advised that there was no further update at present on the resurfacing at Hareydene, or the installation of traffic lights outside Farne School on Trevelyan Drive.

Cllr Littleton and Cllr Couchman’s had previously proved a CIL update for Woolsington & Bank Foot under the Biodiversity plan item.

11. Planning Matters

Cllr G Pattison and Cllr L. Wright declared a non-pecuniary interest and left the meeting for the following planning items.

Cllr Hay took the Chair, the Clerk provided an update on planning applications received which had previously been circulated to members.

2024/1718/01/DET	Newbiggin Hall Clinic Trevelyan Drive, Newbiggin Hall, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE5 4BS	No Reply
2024/1932/01/TPO	2 Woolsington Park South, Woolsington, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8BJ	No Objection
2022/1135/01/DET	Car Park and Adjoining Land, Callerton Parkway Metro Station, Callerton Lane, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 8DF	

12. Financial Matters / Accounts for Payment

a. Approval was given to the following payments, itemised in the Report of the Clerk circulated with the papers for the meeting –

Clerk Salary	Nov/Dec 24	£ 1,156.92
HMRC	Nov/Dec 24	£ 289.20
St Wilfrid's Church (Nov)		£ 40.00
Forvis Mazars (External Audit)		£ 252.00
Andrew Richardson (Xmas Trees – Misc)		£ 456.00
D2 Youth Zone Ltd (Grant)		£ 3,864.00
Callerton Tara (Grant)		£ 360.00
London Hearts (CIL – NB Hall)		£ 3,000.00
Arthur Robson (Sovereign Lodge)		£ 100.00
NCC (Highways Work) (CIL – W&BF)		£ 4,560.00
Curae-Group (CIL – W&BF)		£ 324.00
Wykeham Mature Plants (CIL – W&BF)		£ 404.00
HFF Garden Services (Grant)		£ 650.00
Hedges Direct (Grant)		£ 1,402.38
Sparkie Electrical Services (CIL – NB Hall)		£ 266.00

b. The Clerk shared the financial statement document.

c. The Clerk provided an estimated budget to enable members to set an appropriate precept. It was resolved: That the Precept for the financial year 2025/2026 be set at £20,000

13. Any Other Business

Nothing to report.

14. Date of next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for 12th March 2025, 6.30pm at St Wilfrid's Church.

Chairman

Date